Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*
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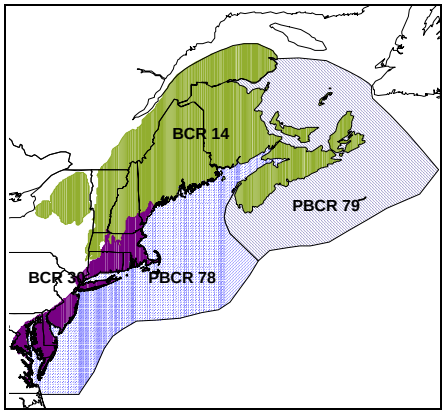
Waterbird Conservation Plan

Mid-Atlantic/New England/Maritimes Region



Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris*
Photo by Jim Zingo

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus longirostris*
c. Chris Brooker

Executive Summary

A partnership of organizations and individuals working to facilitate waterbird conservation in the Mid-Atlantic/New England/Maritimes (MANEM) region of the US and Canada has developed a regional waterbird conservation plan to be implemented during 2006-2010. Over 200 partners comprising the MANEM Waterbird Working Group have compiled and interpreted technical information on the region's waterbird populations and habitats, assessed conservation status of these natural resources, developed strategies to ensure the persistence of sustainable waterbird populations in the region, and identified near-term priorities. MANEM partners include wildlife managers, scientists, policy makers, educators and funders.

The MANEM region consists of Bird Conservation Regions 14 (Atlantic Northern Forest) and 30 (New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast), and Pelagic Bird Conservation Regions 78 (Northeast US Continental Shelf) and 79 (Scotian Shelf). The MANEM Waterbird Conservation Plan is being implemented within the context and framework of the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan—a project of the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas Initiative (www.waterbirdconservation.org).

Seventy-four waterbird species utilize habitats in MANEM for breeding, migrating and wintering. Avian families include Gaviidae (loons), Podicipedidae (grebes), Procellariidae (shearwaters), Hydrobatidae (storm-petrels), Sulidae (boobies), Pelecanidae (pelicans), Phalacrocoracidae (cormorants), Ardeidae (herons), Threskiornithidae (ibises), Rallidae (rails), Laridae (gulls, terns), Stercoraridae (skuas, jaegers) and Alcidae (alcids). Partners in four subregions of MANEM selected 43 Focal Species for immediate conservation action. In addition, 55 of MANEM's waterbirds are identified in state wildlife action plans as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

This summary describes waterbird conservation priorities that encompass population objectives, habitat goals, and conservation problem-solving. The MANEM Waterbird Working Group selected the species and issues described in this summary as those in most urgent need of conservation action over the next five years.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

The American Bittern is a flagship species for large freshwater marshes throughout the region. The MANEM Working Group is unanimous in selecting American Bittern as a focal species for all subregions; it is of High Conservation Concern regionally and occurs on every state's Species of Greatest Conservation Need list. Concern centers on declining abundance in Canada and lack of monitoring data throughout the US. The Working Group proposes to restore populations throughout the region, although the immediate need is for inventory and monitoring. Habitat protection is especially focused in Canada and northern New England and strives toward the maintenance of unfragmented wetlands free from contaminants and invasive plants.

c. Glen Tepke

Protecting Inland Wetlands

Loss of wetland habitat continues to reduce carrying capacity for many waterbirds despite well-established wetland protection laws and efforts to permanently protect wetlands through acquisition. Fragmentation of wetland habitat is especially detrimental to area-sensitive species such as American Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe, and Black Rail. Least Bittern and King Rail are adversely affected by invasive plant species in wetlands. Loss of wetland quality in agricultural landscapes negatively affects Little Blue Heron and Glossy Ibis. Improved wetland protection will require stronger efforts to enforce existing wetland laws, strategic habitat acquisition, and establishment of effective buffers to protect wetlands in mixed-use landscapes.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii dougallii*)

Much of the region is actively involved in building populations of Roseate Tern, a species identified as endangered in ten states and provinces. Roseate Tern is of High Conservation Concern and a MANEM focal species. Intensive management has resulted in population increases, yet the species remains below target abundance. In addition, the number of active colony-sites is half of 1970s totals and Roseate Tern remains highly vulnerable due to current patterns of nesting concentration. The Working Group proposes to maintain the species at 6,200-7,600 breeding birds. Habitat goals include restoring and protecting key resources, including staging habitat, in southern New England, the Gulf of Maine and Nova Scotia. Proactive management is required at all nesting sites.

c. Mike Fahey

Restoring Colony-sites

Creating and restoring colony-site habitats is a critical need of several MANEM waterbirds. Intense human development of the region's coastal zone has displaced and concentrated colonial species into fewer protected colony-sites. As a result, sensitive, vulnerable species such as Roseate Tern and Common Tern co-inhabit islands with aggressive, predatory species. In addition, total number of viable colony-sites has decreased dramatically over the past decades as waterbirds have abandoned non-island sites—no longer sufficiently isolated from ground predators associated with human development. MANEM partners are working to increase the benefit of dredging operations to habitat creation, and with land trusts to secure additional islands for wildlife.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus cornutus*)

The Horned Grebe spends winter months in coastal and nearshore habitats of MANEM having bred in northwestern portions of North America and migrated across the continent. All subregions of MANEM selected the species for local conservation action; it is of High Conservation Concern. Population size and trend are unknown, however Horned Grebe is known to be vulnerable to oil spills. The MANEM Working Group proposes to inventory and monitor the species. Habitat goals include protecting the nearshore shelf waters of the Northeast US Continental Shelf, Gulf of Maine and Scotian Shelf.

c. Dr. Lloyd Ingles, CA Acad Sci

Protecting Marine Habitats from Oil Spills

Large and small releases of oil in the marine environment threaten many waterbird species and the resources on which they depend. Atlantic Canada estimates that a minimum of 300,000 seabirds are killed each year by routine, operational discharges of oil at sea. Priority species at special risk of oil contamination throughout the marine habitats of MANEM include Horned Grebe, Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Greater Shearwater, Black-legged Kittiwake, Black Guillemot, and Atlantic Puffin. Species with the greatest annual number of oiled birds are Thick-billed Murre, Common Murre and Dovekie. Oil spill response plans are in place throughout the region, however greater protection from chronic, small releases is needed.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

A northern breeding species that winters on the nearshore shelf waters of the entire MANEM region, Red-throated Loon is a species of High Conservation Concern. All subregions of MANEM selected the species for local conservation action. Red-throated Loon is vulnerable to oil spills, fishing net entanglement and collisions with wires and other stationary structures. The Working Group proposes to inventory and monitor the species, and accomplish protection goals in the nearshore waters of the continental shelf. Additional conservation actions include identifying key wintering and stopover sites and evaluating potential impacts from fisheries and wind turbines.

c. Allen Chartier

Reducing Collisions

Lighted, vertical structures may pose a significant collision hazard to migrating, breeding and wintering waterbirds. Wind turbines, communications towers, and power lines are potential obstacles to waterbirds in flight. Large wind turbine installation projects have been proposed for several sites along the region's coast potentially putting Red-throated Loon and other nearshore seabirds at risk. Existing information shows that lighted towers are hazardous to weak-flying migrants such as Black Rail, King Rail and Least Bittern. Siting and light guidelines have been developed to minimize bird collisions. MANEM partners should work with local businesses to promote best practices and advance understanding of the issue.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*)

One of the most intensively managed species in the region, Common Tern has been selected for local conservation action by all subregions of MANEM. Restoration and protection efforts have met with success in the US and most of Canada, however this familiar seabird remains at risk due to coastal development. Limiting factors include colony-site predators and human disturbance. The Working Group proposes to continue building the regional population of Common Tern. Needed conservation actions include continued management of colony-sites to control predators, human disturbance, and invasive vegetation. The establishment of new colony-sites and studies to understand fisheries interactions are also priorities.


c. osprey

Outreach for Conservation

An informed and engaged public is critical to successful waterbird conservation in the region. Highly visible and charismatic birds such as Common Tern, Common Loon, and Great Blue Heron are ideal candidates for region-wide campaigns. The Atlantic Puffin has become the focus of successful education and restoration programs in the northern coastal regions of MANEM. Education is critical to resolving conflicts surrounding waterbirds such as the perceived "invasiveness" of Double-crested Cormorant and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Another challenge to MANEM conservationists is informing the region of important seabird populations that rely on local conservation efforts yet remain largely unknown to the general public.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*)

An extremely rare and reclusive species, the Black Rail is one of the highest priority waterbirds in MANEM. It is of Highest Conservation Concern and a MANEM focal species. In addition, its global status is Near Threatened. Although definitive information on regional population size and trend is lacking, Black Rail is thought to be limited by a wide variety of factors including wetland loss (ditching, dredging, filling), invasive plants, human disturbance, contaminants, collisions with structures, and water level rise. The Working Group proposes inventory and monitoring in lieu of quantitative population goals. Habitat goals include identifying and restoring key sites in Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey.


c. William Burt

Mitigating Impacts from Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise is predicted to reach nearly half a meter by the end of the century. Salt marsh accretion in the Mid-Atlantic region will not keep pace with this rate and significant areas of lagoonal marsh habitat will be lost as a result. Species most at risk from habitat loss are Black Rail, Gull-billed Tern, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Black Skimmer and Laughing Gull. Some species (primarily waterfowl) may potentially benefit from the conversion of salt marsh to mud flats and open water. Actions needed to understand and mitigate adverse effects to waterbirds as a result of sea level rise include continued habitat research and monitoring, and creation of additional nesting habitat for affected species.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrycus exilis exilis*)

A small and secretive habitué of freshwater marshes, the Least Bittern occupies a relatively narrow niche in MANEM wetland habitats preferring sites with equal proportions of vegetation and open water. The species is of High Conservation Concern in the region and is a MANEM focal species. It is listed under endangered species statutes in ten states and provinces. Destruction of wetland habitat is the greatest threat facing Least Bittern, including siltation and contamination of marshes. Because abundance data are unavailable, the MANEM Working Group proposes to inventory and monitor Least Bittern. Habitat goals focus on key wetland complexes in BCR 30 and southern Maine. Research needs include evaluating contaminant effects and identifying migration and stopover habitats.

c. Doug Backlund

Monitoring Secretive Marshbirds

Among the highest priority needs of the MANEM region is to quantify the abundance and distribution of secretive marshbirds. Lack of monitoring data severely restricts the region's ability to evaluate status and advance conservation strategies for priority species such as Least Bittern, American Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe, Black Rail, King Rail, Yellow Rail and Black Tern. Efforts are underway to develop a continental framework for marshbird monitoring; field protocols have been developed and tested. Design elements of a large-scale program have yet to be finalized, but a regional project to advance coordinated bird monitoring has received support and will facilitate pilot marshbird monitoring efforts in MANEM.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*)

Black-crowned Night-Heron is distributed throughout the region's coastal habitats—a species that enjoys relatively broad recognition despite its nocturnal activity. The species is of Moderate Conservation Concern, but has been selected by three of four subregions for local conservation action and occurs on 10 state Species of Greatest Conservation Concern lists. Black-crowned Night-Heron has declined by more than 40% since the 1970s as a result of degraded nesting and foraging habitats. The species is vulnerable to impacts from contaminants and human disturbance. The Working Group proposes to restore the breeding population of Black-crowned Night-Heron to 16,700-20,400 birds. Habitat goals have been identified throughout the region.

c. USFWS Digital Library System; Gary Kramer

Managing Waterbirds as Predators

Due to reduced nesting opportunities for many colonial waterbirds throughout the developed coastal regions of MANEM, non-aggressive species such as terns are forced to share colony-sites with larger, aggressive waterbirds. Opportunistic generalists such as Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull are occasional to persistent predators of other waterbirds at nesting sites. The MANEM Working Group seeks to maintain sustainable populations of all waterbirds in the region and recognizes the conflict that negative waterbird-waterbird interactions represents. Predator management on a site-by-site basis is advocated, utilizing science-based information and humane methods. In addition, the Working Group promotes the establishment of new nesting sites.

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*)

Abundant on the offshore shelf and slope waters of the region during spring and summer, Greater Shearwater is a pelagic species of High Conservation Concern. Three of four MANEM subregions selected Greater Shearwater as a focal species for local conservation action. As a plunge-diver and surface feeder, and as an opportunistic scavenger of offal from fishing vessels, Greater Shearwater is vulnerable to negative interactions with fisheries operations including entanglement and bycatch. Oil spills also threaten the species. The Working Group recognizes the immediate need to inventory and monitor Greater Shearwater at sea, and to evaluate the significance of bycatch mortality.

c. Glen Tepke

Managing Fisheries Interactions

Negative interactions with commercial fishing operations impact several species of waterbirds in MANEM. Seabirds such as Greater Shearwater, Northern Gannet, Common Loon and Red-throated Loon are at risk of entanglement in long-line and drift net fisheries. Mortality of shearwaters in bycatch studies in the region is 100%. Coastal species such as Common Tern and Black Skimmer are potentially out-competed for forage fish stocks such as Menhaden. In fresh-water systems, Great Blue Heron and Double-crested Cormorant are perceived as nuisance species in fish hatchery operations and by recreational fishermen. Solutions to these conflicts include scaring devices such as streamers on marine vessels, and research to understand significance of other interactions.

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri lherminieri*)

A little-known seabird that "winters" on the slope waters of the Northeast US Continental Shelf during spring and summer, Audubon's Shearwater is one of the region's most imperiled waterbirds. A tropical nesting species with small distribution and global population, Audubon's Shearwater is a species of Highest Conservation Concern in North America and MANEM. Because its abundance in the region is unknown, the Working Group proposes to inventory and monitor the species. Habitat goals are focused on protecting outer shelf pelagic areas.

c. Jerry Oldenettel

Monitoring Birds at Sea

One of the most important information needs of the region is the abundance and distribution of birds at sea. Systematic surveys of the shelf and slope waters of MANEM have not been conducted in three decades. Adopting conservation strategies based on population targets has been postponed for the following priority species due to lack of baseline abundance data: Audubon's Shearwater, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Greater Shearwater, Red-necked Grebe, Cory's Shearwater, Bridled Tern, Sooty Shearwater, Little Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Great Skua, and South Polar Skua. Efforts are underway to develop a program for region-wide pelagic bird monitoring.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*)

Conservation concern is building for this rare North American species. The Gull-billed Tern has declined in the region by 20% since the 1970s. Limiting factors include the loss of beach nesting habitat through development and erosion, and the impacts of colony-site predators and disturbance. The species is of High Conservation Concern and a MANEM focal species. The Working Group proposes to restore the regional breeding population to 2,800-3,400 birds. Priority breeding habitats along the barrier beaches of Virginia and Maryland are the focus of habitat goals. Needed conservation actions include evaluating limiting factors affecting nesting and foraging, as well as managing colony-site predators.

c. R. Michael Erwin

Conservation Science

Lack of information threatens many waterbird species utilizing habitats within MANEM. A key information need to protect Gull-billed Tern is evaluating factors responsible for recent population declines. Needed management research includes assessing the effectiveness of artificial nesting-sites and predator management. Other MANEM species for which conservation research is critical to achieving population and habitat goals include Audubon's Shearwater, Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, and Snowy Egret. Conservation scientists at universities, in agencies, and NGOs should work with regional and national funding sources to continue ongoing studies, initiate new projects and create opportunities for beginning scientists and students.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

The Common Loon, with its resonating call and readily visible family group behavior, epitomizes lake habitats of northern New England and Canada. The shelf waters of MANEM are equally important in providing winter habitat for the species. Of Moderate Conservation Concern, Common Loon is a MANEM focal species. The species is vulnerable to lake shoreline development and associated human disturbance, fluctuating water levels, and environmental contaminants. Wintering birds are impacted by oil spills. The Working Group proposes to build the regional population which is stable in most areas but declining in parts of Canada. Conservation needs include continued monitoring, contaminants and disease research, and active management to protect nesting sites in areas of human recreation.

c. USFWS Digital Library System; Assistant Regional Director-External Affairs, AK

Protecting Lake Shorelines

Maintaining the integrity of the wetland/upland interface is an important goal for MANEM's open freshwater habitats. Shoreline wetlands are critical to successful nesting of Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe and Common Moorhen. Many waterbirds use lake and pond shore wetlands for foraging including American Coot, Glossy Ibis, Great Blue Heron and Green Heron. Rapid development of the region's lakeshore resources in northern New England threatens waterbirds with increased human disturbance and loss of habitat quality. Shoreline protection relies on improved enforcement of wetland protection laws, restrictions on boat speed to prevent erosion, and public outreach.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Porphyrio podiceps podiceps*)

The only breeding grebe in the region, Pied-billed Grebe is a wide-spread waterbird of small lakes, ponds, sluggish streams and marshes. The species is of High Conservation Concern and occurs on all but one of the region's state Species of Greatest Conservation Need lists. Regional population size and trend are unknown. The conservation of Pied-billed Grebe in the region is challenged by lack of abundance data, and processes reducing wetland quality in the region such as invasive plants and contaminants. The Working Group proposes to inventory and monitor the species, and to identify important staging and wintering habitats. Important breeding wetlands have been identified throughout the region and are the focus of habitat goals.

c. Dick Schofield

Controlling Avian Disease

MANEM's waterbird populations provide a unique opportunity to monitor and control wildlife pathogens for the benefit of both avian conservation and the protection of public health. Nearly a quarter of the waterbird species in MANEM, including Pied-billed Grebe and Black-crowned Night-Heron, have tested positively for West Nile Virus which is transmitted by ornithophilic mosquitoes. In addition to risks posed to human health, WNV and efforts to control mosquitoes may significantly impact bird populations. Congregatory species such as MANEM's waterbirds also are at special risk of infectious avian diseases such as psittacosis and histoplasmosis. Improved wildlife health monitoring is needed to proactively manage avian disease in the region.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

A recognizable and active wading bird in MANEM's coastal wetlands, the Snowy Egret's history in the region describes the advances and reversals of waterbird conservation. Populations grew in the mid 20th century with passage of protective laws only to decline in recent decades as a result of habitat loss and degradation. Snowy Egret is of High Conservation Concern and a MANEM focal species. Contamination of coastal foraging wetlands and disturbance at colony-sites are primary threats to the species. The Working Group proposes to restore populations to 18,300-22,300 breeding birds. Habitat goals are focused in BCR 30. Conservation actions needed include stricter enforcement of clean water laws, colony-site management, and establishment of additional colony-sites.

c. Nature's Lore Photography

Mitigating Contaminant Effects

The coastal zone of the northeast US and Atlantic Canada is among the most developed in North America. Centuries of industrial use of waterways and ports have created a legacy of contamination that significantly impacts wetland resources. Non-urban areas of the region are saturated with human residential landuse. In addition, air-borne contaminants from mid-continental industrial operations have produced a pollution shadow over much of the inland areas of northern New England and Canada. These activities have added a chemical dimension to wildlife habitat that is subtly to acutely toxic. Species impacted include Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, American Bittern, Least Bittern, and Common Loon. Environmental contamination is a complex problem that requires a full range of policy, research, management and education actions to mitigate.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

The Northern Gannet is a distinctive seabird of the region, with important breeding sites in Canada and wintering habitat in the shelf waters of the US Continental Shelf and Gulf of Maine. The species is of Low Conservation Concern however predator introductions at colony-sites, and negative interactions with fisheries and energy development are potential threats. Northern Gannet is a MANEM focal species. The Working Group proposes to maintain the regional breeding population at 97,000-118,000 birds. Breeding habitat goals are focused on the Magdalene Islands and Eastern Gaspe, Quebec. Needed conservation actions include continued monitoring and evaluation of fisheries interactions.

c. Steve Nanz

Regional Responsibility

The MANEM region of North America hosts proportionately large numbers of some waterbird species. For example, the regional population of Northern Gannet comprises 70% of the entire continental population. To protect North American waterbird biodiversity, MANEM bears a critical responsibility for maintaining populations of this species as well as Cory's Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Great Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Little Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Roseate Tern and Great Skua. Improved monitoring programs and education campaigns are key to achieving conservation goals for these species of regional importance.

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum antillarum*)
Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

These two sensitive tern species are of High Conservation Concern and MANEM focal species in subregions where they occur. They are limited primarily by factors affecting nesting habitat quality including colony-site predators (especially gulls and mammals) and human disturbance. In addition, both species are threatened by sea level rise. The Working Group proposes to restore breeding populations of Least Tern to 13,600-16,600 birds and Arctic Tern to 17,100-20,900 birds. Priority habitat goals have been identified for both species throughout the region.

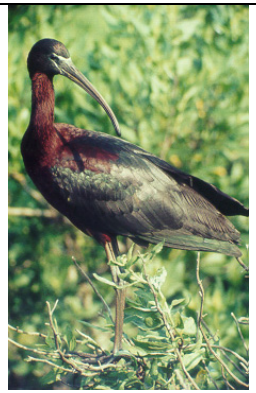
c. Nature's Lore Photography (LETE)
c. Garth McElroy (ARTE)

Managing Colony-site Predators

Birds that nest in colonies are theoretically able to accrue benefits from congregatory behavior if colony-sites are isolated from predators. The system fails badly when predators find their way to large and concentrated numbers of ground-nesting birds. Many predators of MANEM's coastal waterbird colonies, such as raccoons and foxes, are subsidized by nearby human development. Other predators, such as nesting gulls, find themselves with vulnerable waterbirds in their midst because of a shortage of viable colony-sites. The Working Group recommends management of colony predators that is situational, science-based, and humane, and the establishment of additional nesting habitat.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

MANEM supports a relatively large proportion of the Western Hemisphere's population of Glossy Ibis. It is a species of Moderate Conservation Concern; relatively successful and stable in the region. Both BCR 30 subregions selected Glossy Ibis as a focal species. Of colonial nesting wading birds in the region, it is one of the most sensitive to human disturbance. In addition, Glossy Ibis is vulnerable to contaminant effects and wetland degradation. The Working Group proposes to maintain the regional population of breeding birds at 9,900-12,100. Protection of priority habitats in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey are among habitat goals for Glossy Ibis.


c. Stephen Kress

Managing Human Disturbance at Nesting Sites

The region's nesting waterbirds are highly vulnerable to adverse impacts as a result of human disturbance. When humans enter colony-sites, waterbirds are subject to panic reactions causing ejection of nest contents or young to become separated from parents. Secretive, non-colonial waterbirds are likely to abandon nesting attempts when disturbed by humans. The Working Group recommends careful control of human access to nesting sites (including for scientific study). Management research has developed effective tools to facilitate protection including fencing, signage, and buffer guidelines. Public education is essential to managing and optimizing human interactions with waterbirds.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans elegans*)

The King Rail is a year-round resident of the southern portion of BCR 30 and is one of eight harvested waterbird species in MANEM. It is a species of High Conservation Concern, a MANEM focal species, and present on the Species of Greatest Conservation Need list in every state in which it occurs. It flourishes in brackish and freshwater marshes which have been maintained in a natural state without ditching or draining. King Rail habitat is threatened by invasive vegetation in wetlands and the presence of lighted structures which pose a collision risk. The Working Group proposes to build regional populations but immediate needs are to inventory and monitor. Habitat goals are focused on key sites in the Chesapeake/Delaware Bay states and in southern New England.


c. USFWS Digital Library System;
Jim Rathert/MO Conservation

Open Marsh Water Management

Information developed nearly forty years ago has shown the benefits of Open Marsh Water Management to reducing nuisance mosquito populations and providing habitat for fish and wildlife. OMWM was developed to rectify the negative impacts of parallel ditching that took place in Atlantic coast marshes in the 1930s. Installation of small shallow pools and interconnecting ditches creates a mosaic of semi-tidal permanent water bodies in high marsh habitats. Waterbirds benefiting from this type of marsh management include King Rail, Black Rail and Clapper Rail. Open Marsh Water Management has been widely adopted throughout MANEM, but significant areas of parallel-ditched marshes remain. OMWM should be promoted to restore habitat in all coastal marshes.

The Mid-Atlantic/New England/Maritimes region of North America is well-equipped with legal frameworks, agency authority, academic institutions and non-profit organizations to pursue conservation of the region's waterbirds through research, management, and education. Not only do these numerous organizations exist whose work furthers waterbird conservation in the region, but subregional associations within MANEM have been active for decades working specifically to conserve waterbirds and their habitats. These include the Southern New England/Long Island Working Group (SNELIWG) and the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group (GOMSWG). In addition, waterbird conservation work within the maritime provinces of Canada is facilitated by the Atlantic Canada region of the Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada) and a loose partnership of agencies and NGOs in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware have worked together to conserve waterbirds in the greater Chesapeake Bay area of the mid-Atlantic. These four subregional working groups provide infrastructure for continued and expanded waterbird conservation at local and regional scales.

The MANEM Working Group welcomes participation from all those interested in waterbird conservation and management. To learn more about waterbird conservation in the region, visit www.waterbirdconservation.org/MANEM. To contact the steering committee, email Kathy Parsons (waterbirds@manomet.org) or Scott Johnston (Scott_Johnston@fws.gov).

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*
c. USFWS Digital Library Service

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
c. USFWS Digital Library Service

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
c. USFWS Digital Library Service

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